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TITLE: ORGANIC THIN FILM FORMING DEVICE

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ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an organic thin film forming device that is suitable for mass production, can continuously produce organic EL display elements, and can stably and continuously produce highly-reproducible organic thin films by using an organic material easy to be thermally modified.

SOLUTION: In this device, an organic EL display element is manufactured by preparing multiple crucibles 12 to be individually filled with multiple organic materials, by selecting any one of the crucibles 12, by vaporizing the organic material by the use of heat of a corresponding evaporation source 21 in a vacuum chamber 11 to deposit it on a substrate 20 so as to form each film and by laminating the films. The crucibles 12 are formed separately from the evaporation sources 21, the crucibles 12 are attachable to and detachable from the evaporation sources 21, a transferring mechanism 15 for mounting the crucible 12 to and dismounting it from the evaporation sources 21 is provided, and the crucible 12 filled with a predetermined quantity of the organic material 34 corresponding to the thickness of the film to be formed is mounted to the evaporation sources 21 by the transferring mechanism 15 before starting the film formation.

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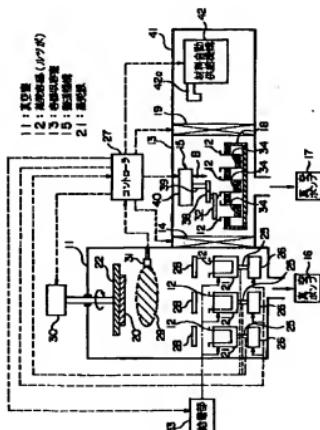
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## (54)【発明の名称】 有機薄膜形成装置

## (57)【要約】

【課題】有機EL表示素子を連続生産でき、熱的に変性しやすい有機材料を用いて再現性のよい有機薄膜を安定して連続的に生産し、量産に適した有機薄膜形成装置を提供する。

【解決手段】有機薄膜形成装置は、複数の有機材料を個別に充填する複数のレツボ12を用意し、レツボのいずれかを選択し、真空室11内で有機材料を蒸発源21の熱で蒸発させ、基板20に蒸着して膜を形成し膜を積層して有機EL表示素子を作る。レツボと蒸発源は分離して形成されたフルツボは蒸発源に対して着脱自在であり、かつ蒸発源に対してレツボを取り付け、取り外しする搬送機構15を備え、成膜開始前に、搬送機構によつて、成膜しようとする膜の厚みに対応する所定量の有機材料34が充填された状態のレツボを蒸発源に取り付けるように構成される。



## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 種類の異なる複数の有機材料の各々を個別に充填する複数の蒸発容器を用意し、前記複数の蒸発容器のいずれかを選択し、真空室内で、その中に充填された有機材料を蒸発源の熱で蒸発させ、上方に配置された基板に蒸着して膜を形成し、各種の前記有機材料を用いて前記基板に複数の膜を積層して有機EL表示素子を形成する有機薄膜形成装置において、前記蒸発容器と前記蒸発源は分離して形成されかつ前記蒸発容器は前記蒸発源に対して着脱自在であり、かつ前記蒸発源に対して前記蒸発容器を取り付け、取り外しする蒸発容器搬送機を備え、成膜開始前に、前記蒸発容器搬送機によって、所定量の有機材料が充填された状態の蒸発容器を前記蒸発源に取り付けるようにしたことを特徴とする有機薄膜形成装置。

【請求項2】 複数の前記蒸発容器が配置された容器収容室と、前記蒸発容器が配置された成膜室が設けられ、前記容器収容室と前記成膜室の間にゲートバルブが設けられることを特徴とする請求項1記載の有機薄膜形成装置。

【請求項3】 前記蒸発容器搬送機は、前記蒸発容器をつかみ把手部を備え、この把手部で前記蒸発容器をつかみ、ゲートバルブを設けた開口部を介して前記容器収容室と前記成膜室の間に前記蒸発容器を搬送することを特徴とする請求項2記載の有機薄膜形成装置。

【請求項4】 複数の前記蒸発容器の各々には、前記容器収容室で、1回の成膜工程に必要な量の前記有機材料が充填されるように構成されることを請求項1～3のいずれか1項に記載の特徴とする有機薄膜形成装置。

【請求項5】 前記蒸発容器と前記蒸発源と前記蒸発容器搬送機は成膜室に配置され、複数の前記蒸発容器の各々には、1回の成膜工程に必要な量の有機材料が充填されることを構成されることを請求項1記載の特徴とする有機薄膜形成装置。

【請求項6】 複数の前記蒸発容器に1回の成膜に必要な量の有機材料を充填する材料供給機構が設けられることを特徴とする請求項1～5のいずれか1項に記載の有機薄膜形成装置。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

## 【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明は有機薄膜形成装置に関するもので、特に、大型フラット表示パネルとして利用可能な有機EL表示素子の連続生産に適した有機薄膜形成装置に関するものである。

## 【0002】

【従来の技術】 従来のフラット表示パネルには主に液晶表示素子が使用されていた。しかし、液晶表示装置については、自発光素子でないこと、大型化が難しいことなどからその他の形式の表示パネルの開発が怠がれてい

る。一方、有機EL表示素子は、有機高分子材料の薄膜

化技術と有機・無機材料のハイブリッド化技術からなり、新しい原理に基づく表示素子であり、自発光素子である。視野角が広く、また構造が簡単であるため、将来低コストでかつ大型化可能な表示パネルとして期待されている。

【0003】 有機EL表示素子は実際上輝度や発光色の制御の観点から複数の積層構造を有している。有機EL表示素子の一例を断面構造で表された図4に示す。陽極としてのガラス基板71の上に酸化インジウム等の透明導電膜72を形成し、さらに透明導電膜72の上に、正孔輸送層73、発光層74、カソード電極75が順次に成膜され、最終的に全体に耐環境性を高めたための封止処理の保護膜76が施されている。正孔輸送層73にはトリアリールアミン誘導体、発光層74にはキノリノール錫化合物などの有機材料が使用される。また発光層74にも発光効率を向上させるための有機材料(例えば緑色の発光ではマクリン誘導体)が使用される。上記の各層はそれぞれ厚さが500オングストローム程度の薄い層と形成される。従来、有機EL表示素子の各層を作製

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蒸発源としてKセル（クエンセンセル）と呼ばれるルツボが使用されている。Kセルの構造の一例を図6に示す。加熱コイル91の内側に例えば空化ボロン製のルツボ92が配置され、ルツボ92の内側に適量の蒸発材料93が収容される。ルツボ92の外側にはその温度を正確に管理するためのタンタルなどで作られた3層構造の熱遮蔽板94が設けられ、ルツボ92の下側には熱電対95が設けられている。加熱コイル91に電流を流すと、ルツボ92が加熱され、蒸発材料93が蒸発する。蒸発材料の蒸発量は、図示しない蒸発速度計を監視しながら加熱コイル91に流す電流を調整することにより調整される。Kセルは、蒸発温度が1000°C以上の高温である場合には温度制御がされない。

【0006】さらに実用装置に関する従来の技術文献として特開平10-195638号公報を挙げることができる。この文献には主材料に対する添加材料の蒸発速度の正確な制御を可能にする有機材料用蒸発源と、これを利用して構成される有機薄膜形成装置が開示されている。

#### 【0007】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】有機EL表示素子を製作するための有機薄膜形成装置は、現状、その特性上、連続生産に適したスパッタリング技術を利用できず、蒸発技術を適用なければならぬ。前述の抵抗加熱方式の蒸発装置によれば、蒸着ポート83の蒸発材料がなくなつたときには真空室82の内部が大気に戻りて蒸発材料を充填することが必要となり、研究レベルでは使えるが、連続生産が要求される実用的な製造装置として使うことは困難である。すなわち、連続生産を行える蒸発装置としては蒸発材料の連続供給を行ふことが構造上極めて難しい。

【0008】前述のKセルは精度よく温度管理できるルツボであり、上記の抵抗加熱方式の蒸発装置において蒸発材料の交換回数を減らすといふ前提で当該Kセルを使用すれば、連続生産の可能性も考えられる。しかしながら、蒸発材料の交換回数を減らす場合には、Kセルで蒸発材料の充填量が多くなることから、ルツボの熱容量が大きくなり、温度制御が難しくなるといふ問題が起つ。温度制御が難しくなると、膜の厚みを正確に制御することができず、さらにガラス基板上に蒸着された有機EL表示素子に熱的な影響が与えられ、望ましい精度の有機EL表示素子を製作することができなくなる。Kセル自体は精密に正確な温度制御を行える蒸発源であるので、蒸発材料の充填量を適切に設定し、かつ蒸発材料の供給を連続的に行なうことができるのであれば、連続生産が蒸発装置においても可能になる。しかし、現在のところ、蒸発材料を連続的に供給できる手段が開発されていないので、連続生産を行なうことはできない。

【0009】前述の特許公開公報に開示された有機材料用蒸発源は、添加材料を収容し蒸発させる蒸発源の構造

を、容器本体である第1のルツボと孔部を有した第2のルツボとから構成し、添加材料を充填した第1のルツボに第2のルツボをはめ込み、添加材料の蒸気を、孔部を通して上昇させることにより添加材料の蒸発を制御するように構成している。これによれば、主材料に対する添加材料の蒸発速度を正確に制御することができるかもしれないが、上記で指摘した連続生産の問題を解決することは困難である。

【0010】本発明の目的は、上記の課題を解決することにあり、有機EL表示素子を連続生産できる製造装置であり、熱的に変性しやすい有機材料を用いて再現性のよい有機薄膜を安定して連続的に生産し、量産に適した有機薄膜形成装置を提供することにある。

#### 【0011】

【課題を解決するための手段および作用】本発明に係る有機薄膜形成装置は、上記目的を達成するために次のように構成される。本発明に係る有機薄膜形成装置は、好ましくは、有機EL表示素子製造装置の一部を構成するものであり、有機材料の膜を形成するときに、蒸着作用に基づいて基板の上に有機材料蒸着膜を形成するための装置である。有機薄膜形成装置は、前提として、種類の異なる複数の有機材料の各々を個別に充填する複数の蒸発容器（ルツボ）を用意しており、複数の蒸発容器のいずれかを選択し、真空室内で、その中に充填された有機材料を蒸発源の熱で蒸発させ、上方に配置された基板に蒸着して膜を形成し、各種の前記有機材料を用いて基板に複数の膜を積層して有機EL表示素子を形成する。本発明による有機薄膜形成装置は、その特徴として、蒸発容器と蒸発源（加熱部）が分離して形成されかつ蒸発容器は蒸発源に対して着脱自在であり、かつ蒸発源に対して蒸発容器を取り付け、取り外しする蒸発容器搬送機を備え、成膜開始前に、蒸発容器搬送機によって、成膜しようとする膜の厚みに対応する所定量の有機材料が充填された状態の蒸発容器を蒸発源に取り付けるように構成される。上記の構成によれば、蒸発源の本体に対してルツボを着脱自在にし、かつ当該ルツボに対して蒸着による成膜を行う前（大気中あるいは減圧下）の段階で1回の成膜工程に必要な量の有機材料が正確に秤量・充填され用意される。成膜工程では、用意されたルツボを順次に成膜室内の蒸発源にセットしながら蒸着による成膜を行ふ。これによって有機EL表示素子の連続的な生産が可能になる。上記の構成において、さらに、複数の蒸発容器が配置された容器収容室と、蒸発源が配置された成膜室が設けられ、容器収容室と成膜室の間にゲートバルブが設けられる。蒸着による成膜が行われる成膜室と、蒸発源から取り外されかつ必要な少量の有機材料が充填された複数のルツボが用意される容器収容室は、ゲートバルブで隔離され、各々独自に所定の真空状態に保持される。上記の構成において、さらに、上記蒸発容器搬送機は、蒸発容器をつかむ把持部を備え、この把持部で蒸

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発容器をつかみ、ゲートバルブを設けた開口部を介して容器収容室と成膜室の間で蒸発容器を搬送することを特徴とする。蒸発容器搬送機は、搬送ロボットとして構成され、蒸発源に対して着脱自在に構成されたルツボを、連続生産を可能にすべく、搬送する機能を有している。上記の構成において、さらに、複数の蒸発容器の各々には、材料供給室で、1回の成膜工程に必要な量の有機材料が充填されるよう構成される。比較的に少量（およそ1g以下の程度）にすることによって、ルツボを小型化することが可能となり、前述の従来技術であるKセルで問題となるルツボの熱容量も小さくできる。また、成膜工程においても、大気中で材料の供給・充填が簡単に実現するため、容易に連続生産することが可能となる。また本発明に係る有機薄膜形成装置は、前述の第1の基本構成において、容器収容室を特別に設けることなく、成膜室だけとし、蒸発容器と蒸発源と蒸発容器搬送機を同じ成膜室に配置し、複数の蒸発容器の各々に、1回の成膜工程に必要な量の有機材料を充填するよう構成することもできる。この構成にすれば、全体的な構成が簡易化される。さらに、上記の各構成において、複数の蒸発容器に1回の成膜に必要な量の有機材料を充填する材料供給機構を付設するよう構成することも好ましい。連続生産を可能にするためには自動的に有機材料を供給するルツボに充填するが可能な材料供給装置を装備することが必要である。

## 【0012】

【発明の実施の形態】以下に、本発明の好適な実施形態を添付図面に基づいて説明する。

【0013】図1～図3は本発明に係る有機薄膜形成装置の代表的な実施形態を示す。この有機薄膜形成装置は有機EL表示素子製造装置の一部として構成される。この有機薄膜形成装置は、例とし図1に示した2層の有機材料の蒸着層および金属材料の蒸着層を含んで形成される有機EL表示素子の製造において、所定の厚みを有する有機材料の各蒸着層の膜を再現性よく正確に形成してかつ連続的に生産する蒸着装置である。図1には有機薄膜形成装置のシステム全体の構成を示しており、成膜装置を構成する各部分、制御部（コントローラ）、給電部（電源）、制御部と装置の各部を接続する複数の信号線（破線で示す）、給電部と蒸発源を接続する給電線（一点頭線で示す）などが示されている。本実施形態による有機薄膜形成装置は、有機材料の蒸着作用により成膜が行われる真空室11と、複数の蒸発容器（または蒸発ボート）12、すなわち複数のルツボ12が用意され配置される容器収容室（予備室）13とを備えている。真空室11と容器収容室13は隣接して設けられており、その間にゲートバルブ14が設けられる。ゲートバルブ14は通常閉じられて真空室11と容器収容室13を隔離する。またゲートバルブ14を開くことによって、真空室11と容器収容室13との間で两者を通じる開口部

が形成され、複数のルツボ12のいずれかを移動させることができとなる。ルツボ12の移動には、容器収容室13の内部に設けられた搬送機構15が使用される。真空室11と容器収容室13の各々には真空ポンプ16、17が付設されており、これらの真空ポンプは独立に動作し、これらの真空ポンプで各室は独立に排気され、それぞれ別個の真空状態になるように減圧されている。【0014】容器収容室13の中に配置されるルツボ12の数は、通常、例えば成膜しようとする有機EL表示素子に含まれる各種の有機材料による複数の層の数に対応している。図示例では、3つのルツボ12が示されている。3つのルツボ12は例えば回転可能な円盤状のパレット18に配置されている。パレット18にはルツボ12を収容するための複数の収容穴（ルツボ立て）が形成されており、ルツボ12はその収容穴の中に入し入れ自在にセットされている。各収容穴には、その位置に対応して固有の番号が割り当てられている。この固有の番号は、各ルツボに収容された材料に関する蒸着による成膜を行うとき、成膜工程を管理するコントローラ用の管理データとして用いられる。パレット18には、有機材料を精密に秤量し充填し終えたルツボ12がセットされる。成膜を開始する前の段階で、複数のルツボ12の各々には、前述した正孔輸送層や発光層などの有機材料蒸着層を順次に成膜するための有機材料が1回の成膜工程において必要かつ十分な量にて厳密に充填されている。従って、各ルツボ12には、従来のルツボの場合と比較して相対的に少量（およそ1g以下の程度）の有機材料が充填されており、また少量の蒸着材料を充填できればよいことから、ルツボ12自体も、従来のルツボに比較して小型の形態を有している。なおルツボ12は例えば石英で作られている。

【0015】さらに図1に示すごとく容器収容室13の右側には材料供給室41が設けられ、容器収容室13と材料供給室41の間には開閉自在なゲートバルブ19が設けられている。材料供給室41には、材料を供給するためのノズル42aを備えた材料自動供給機構42が備えられている。容器収容室13内の複数のルツボ12の各々に必要な量の有機材料を充填するときにゲートバルブ19が開かれる。

【0016】真空室11は蒸着作用に基づく成膜が行われる部分であり、上方に成膜が行われるガラス基板20が配置され、下方に複数の蒸発源21が設けられている。ガラス基板20の下面に有機材料が蒸着される。図1で22はガラス基板20を固定するホルダである。蒸発源21は、全体の基本構成は図6で説明した従来の構成に類似しているが、次のような特徴点を有する。図3に蒸発源21の詳細な構造を示す。蒸発源21は、加熱コイルを利用して成る筒型の加熱部23と、加熱部23を覆う複数の熱遮蔽板24a～24cからなる熱遮蔽部24を備える。この蒸発源21では、加熱部23に対し

でルツボ12が分離して形成されており、ルツボ12は加熱部23に対して着脱自在に設けられる点に特徴があり、この点が従来の蒸発源の構成との大きな相違点である。従って加熱部23は、ルツボ12を上側の開口部23aから出し入れできる容器のことき形態を有している。さらに加熱部23の下部には、上下動自在な支持部材25が設けられている。加熱部23の内部に入れられたルツボ12は、その下部を支持部材25によって支持され、さらにその支持部材25は駆動装置26(図1に示す)によって矢印Aに示すごとく上下に動かされる。支持部材25の上昇動作によってルツボ12は突き出され、ルツボ12の取り出しを容易に行なうことができる。図1に図2に示された例では、説明の便宜上、蒸発源21にセットされたルツボ12は上部が出た状態で示されているが、成膜の際に、支持部材25がさらに下降し、ルツボ12はその上部の縁部(鉛の部分)12aを残して、その下側全体が加熱部23の内部に入る。そして、蒸発源21から取り出されたときには、下側の支持部材25の上昇動作でルツボ12を突き上げ、搬送機構15によってルツボ12をつかみやすいようにする。なおルツボ12のすべてを加熱部23の中に入すつり入れるよに構成することも可能である。駆動装置26の支持部材25を駆動させるための動作は、図1に示すごとくコンピュータで構成されるコントローラ27によって制御される。コントローラ27にはその記憶部に成膜処理を行なうための制御プログラムが内蔵され、当該制御プログラムに従って蒸発源21の支持部材25を動作させ、かつ搬送機構15を開通させて動作させることにより、ルツボ12を搬送し、取り付け、取り外しを行う。またコントローラ27は、蒸発を行う各有機材料のプロセス条件(蒸着材料、秤量重量、設定温度等)を、各ルツボごと、前述した図のルツボ番号別に設定・管理する。

【0017】真空室11において蒸発源21は例えば5個以上設けられる。蒸発源を複数設けることによって異なった種類の有機材料を同時に蒸発させることができ。複数の蒸発源21の各々で有機材料を蒸発させるとさには蒸発源21は加熱部23に電力が投入されて加熱されながら、各蒸発源21の加熱のための条件(設定温度)はコントローラ27によって独立に制御される。また各蒸発源に上方にシャッタ28が設けられており、これが開くことによって蒸発した材料を上方に昇らせることが可能となる。図1においてシャッタ28を閉鎖させる機構の図示は省略されている。

【0018】真空室11において、ガラス基板20と、蒸発源21のシャッタ28との間の空間に成膜領域29が形成される。ガラス基板20を取りつけたためのホールダ22は真空室11の天井部に設けられ、真空室11の外に設けられた回転駆動装置30によって回転するよう設けられている。ガラス基板20を回転させるのは基板面に均一に蒸着が行われるようにするためである。回

転駆動装置30の動作はコントローラ27によって制御される。また従来では、成膜領域29に対応して膜厚計が取りつけられていたが、本実施形態による有機材料の蒸着装置の場合は、毎回の蒸着成膜で使用する分のみの少量の材料をルツボ12に充填し、ルツボ12における充填量を厳密にかつ正確に管理することによって有機材料の蒸着層の膜厚を決定するようしているので、膜厚計を付設して成膜された膜厚をモニタする必要はない。しかししながら、さらに図示のごとく膜厚計31を付設して10 フィードバック制御を実現し、本発明の特徴的構成と組み合わせることにより蒸着層の膜厚管理を向上することも可能である。この場合、膜厚計31で検出された情報はコントローラ27に送られる。

【0019】また上記支持部材25には熱電対32が内蔵される。熱電対32はルツボ12の温度を測定するためのものであり、測定で得られたルツボ12の温度情報はコントローラ27に与えられる。加熱部23の加熱コイルに対しては、給電部33から電流が供給され、供給される電流量に応じてルツボ12の加熱温度が決定される。ルツボ12の加熱温度は、ルツボ12に充填された材料34の蒸発量を決定する。そこでコントローラ27は、熱電対32から与えられるルツボ12の温度情報に基づいて給電部33から供給される電流量を制御し、蒸着に適した適度な電流量を設定する。各ルツボ12の材料蒸発の際に、セットされた蒸発源21の加熱部23に供給される電力は、コントローラ27によって、材料ごとに、固有のルツボ番号で管理されながら個別に制御される。

【0020】容器収容室13内に設けられた搬送機構15は、図2に示すごとく、ルツボ12を把持する開閉自在ハンド35と、矢印36のごとく回転自在でかつ矢印37のごとく伸縮自在なアーム38と、図1の矢印Bに示すごとく上下動する支柱39と、ハンド35とアーム38と支柱39にかかる動作を行わせる駆動装置40とから構成される搬送ロボット機構である。ハンド35はアーム38の先部に設けられ、アーム38は支柱36の先部に固定される。支柱36が回転することによりアーム38は回転自在となる。駆動装置40の動作は、コントローラ27の記憶部に用意された成膜のための制御プログラムに含まれる搬送プログラムに従って制御される。例えば成膜が行われると、搬送機構15の動作によって、容器収容室13のパレット18にセットされた複数のルツボ12のうちのいずれかが選択され、ハンド32で把持され、ゲートバルブ14が開いた状態では、図2中破線で示されるごとく真空室11の内部に運ばれ、蒸発源21にセットされる。この場合において、成膜が開始される前の段階で、容器収容室13において、蒸発源21に取り付けられるルツボ12には、その後に行われる成膜工程にて1回の成膜で形成される有機材料蒸着層の所定の厚みの分のみの比較的に少量の材料が予

め充填されるようにして用意されている。

【0021】前述の構成では、搬送機構15は容器収容室13に設けられたが、搬送機構15を真空室11の内部、すなわち成膜室内に設けることも可能である。この場合には、真空室11側から容器収容室13へルツボ12を取りしていく構成となる。また前述の構成において、真空室11と別個の蒸発源室13を設ける代わりに、導管段階の複数のルツボ12をパレットを利用して真空室11内に設けるように構成することも可能である。この場合には、ルツボの搬送の際にゲートバルブ14を開閉する必要なくなる。

【0022】次に、容器収容室13のパレット18にセットされた各ルツボ12に有機材料の材料を充填する構成について説明する。各ルツボ12への材料の充填は、成膜工程が開始される前の段階、または成膜工程中の段階で行われる。材料を充填するときには、ゲートバルブ14が閉じた状態でゲートバルブ19が開かれる。從って真空室11内の真空状態は保持されている。ゲートバルブ19が開かれると、容器収容室13と材料供給室41が通じた状態になる。このときには、例えば搬送機構15で各ルツボ12を把持し、材料自動供給機構42のノズル42aの下間に運び、ノズル42aからルツボ12へ、ルツボに応じて選択された所定の材料が供給・充填される。材料自動供給機構42の内部には、各有機材料ごとに材料ランクが設けられており、これらの材料ランクから必要な材料が取り出され、ノズル42aを介して各ルツボ12へ供給される。材料自動供給機構42の動作用ポンローラ27によって制御される。材料自動供給機構42から各ルツボ12に供給される材料の充填量は、その後、真空室11で実施される蒸着による1回の成膜工程で作製される膜厚に必要な分だけであり、比較的小量（およそ1g以下の程度）である。

【0023】上記の構成によれば、例えば大気圧状態あるいは成膜状態の材料供給室41で比較的小量の材料が対応する各ルツボ12に正確に秤量・充填される。各ルツボ12への材料の充填が完了すると、その後ゲートバルブ19が閉じられる。ゲートバルブ19が閉じられると、真空ポンプ17が動作し、容器収容室13内が減圧され、所定の真空状態にされ、次の成膜工程に移行する。成膜工程ではゲートバルブ14が閉じられ、パレット18に用意された複数のルツボ12がそれぞれ搬送機構15によって真空室11内の蒸発源21に搬送され、セットされ、成膜が開始される。以上の材料供給の構成によれば、成膜工程が開始される前の段階で、蒸着作用に基づく成膜が行われる真空室11に搬入される複数のルツボ12に対して、成膜工程で必要となる量の有機材料を正確に秤量することができ、成膜工程には、成膜室の真空状態を保ったまま成膜に必要とされる材料を収容するルツボを順次に交換して、連続的に有機材料を供給することができるので、蒸着による有機EL表示素

子の作製で連続生産を行うことができる。

【0024】またルツボ12は、1回の蒸着成膜に必要な量を充填できる大きさの容器でよいため、例えば内径が10mm程度、高さが30mm程度の小型のサイズで形成することができる。このため、ルツボの熱容量が小さくなつて、しかも蒸発源21の構造、主に加熱部23の小型化も可能であるため、全般的な熱輻射が小さくなり、基板のダメージが低減される。また前述のフィードバック制御が効果的に機能できるため、温度制御性が向上するという利点を有する。さらに蒸着による成膜が必要とされる材料の量を成膜される蒸着層の厚みとの関係で正確に管理できるようにしたため、熱的に変成しやすい有機材料の制御を可能にし、有機材料の管理を有効に行うことができる。

【0025】前述した実施形態は次のように変形させることができる。例えば、前述ではルツボのみを搬送するようにしたが、ルツボに加熱部を一体化させて搬送するように構成することもできる。この場合には、ルツボの温度条件が常に一定に保持されるため、ルツボの間のばらつきを減少させることができる。

#### 【0026】

【発明の効果】以上の説明で明らかのように、本発明によれば、蒸着による成膜で有機EL表示素子を作製する装置において、蒸発源の加熱部と蒸発容器を分離して構成し、かつ蒸発源の本体に対してルツボを着脱自在の構成とし、成膜工程を行う前に1回の成膜工程において必要とされる有機材料を各ルツボに必要な量だけ充填して準備するようにしたため、連続的な生産を行うことが可能になった。蒸発源に対して着脱自在なかつか型のルツボと、このルツボを搬送する搬送機構と、ルツボに対して正確に秤量された最適な量の材料を大気中あるいは減圧下で自動的に充填する自動材料供給機構を設けるようにして、実用的な連続生産を行える有機薄膜形成装置を実現することができる。連続した各ルツボには1回の成膜工程に足りる有機材料を充填すればよいので、小型のルツボを使用することができ、ルツボの熱容量が小さくなり、ルツボに充填された有機材料の温度制御性が向上する。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

40 【図1】本発明に係る有機薄膜形成装置の代表的実施形態を示す全体構成図である。

【図2】図1に示した有機薄膜形成装置の要部の平面図である。

【図3】蒸発源の内部構造を示した縦断面図である。

【図4】有機EL表示素子の構造の一例を示す縦断面図である。

【図5】従来の有機EL表示素子製造装置に含まれる有機薄膜形成装置の一例を示す図である。

【図6】従来の蒸発源の構造の一例を示す縦断面図である。

50 る。

11

### 【符号の説明】

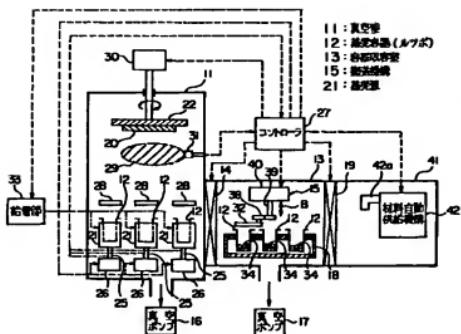
11	真空室
12	ルツボ(蒸発容器)
13	容器収容室
15	搬送機械

18

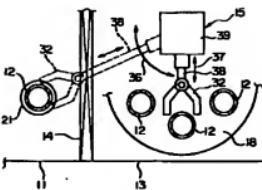
21  
23  
34

パレット  
蒸発源  
ホルダ  
有機材料

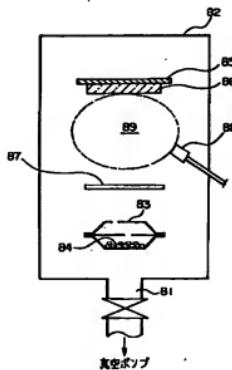
【图1】



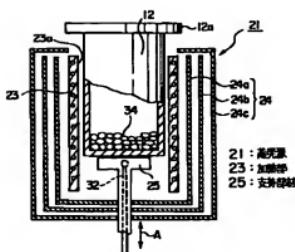
【図2】



【図5】

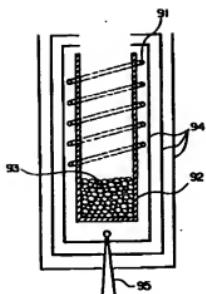


【图3】



【図4】

【図6】



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4K029 AA09 BA62 BB02 BC07 BD00  
DB06 DB10 DB14 DB18

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**Notes:**

1. Untranslatable words are replaced with asterisks ("\*").
2. Texts in the figures are not translated and shown as it is.

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**CLAIMS**

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**[Claim(s)]**

[Claim 1] Prepare two or more evaporation containers individually filled up with each of several organic materials with which kinds differ, choose either of said two or more evaporation containers, and within a vacuum chamber in the organic thin film formation equipment which the organic material with which it filled up into it is evaporated with the heat of an evaporation source, vapor-deposits to the substrate arranged up, forms a film, laminates two or more films to said substrate using said various kinds of organic materials, and forms an organic electroluminescence display device Said evaporation container and said evaporation source are separated, and it is formed, and said evaporation container can be freely detached and attached to said evaporation source. And organic thin film formation equipment characterized by attaching to said evaporation source the evaporation container in the state where had the evaporation container conveyer which attaches and removes said evaporation container to said evaporation source, and it filled up with the organic material of the specified quantity with said evaporation container conveyer before the membrane formation start.

[Claim 2] Organic thin film formation equipment according to claim 1 characterized by preparing the container hold room where said two or more evaporation containers have been arranged, and the membrane formation room where said evaporation source has been arranged, and preparing a gate valve between said container hold room and said membrane formation room.

[Claim 3] Said evaporation container conveyer is organic thin film formation equipment according to claim 2 characterized by conveying said evaporation container between said container hold room and said membrane formation room through the opening in which it had the gripper grasping said evaporation container, said evaporation container has been held by this gripper, and the gate valve was prepared.

[Claim 4] Organic thin film formation equipment characterized [ given in any 1 term of Claim 1 -

3] by being constituted so that said organic material of an amount required for 1 time of stage film formation may be filled up into each of two or more of said evaporation containers with said container hold room.

[Claim 5] It is organic thin film formation equipment characterized [ according to claim 1 ] by constituting said evaporation container, said evaporation source, and said evaporation container conveyer so that it may be arranged at a membrane formation room and each of two or more of said evaporation containers may be filled up with the organic material of an amount required for 1 time of stage film formation.

[Claim 6] Organic thin film formation equipment given in any 1 term of Claim 1 -5 which carry out that the material supplying mechanism filled up with a required quantity of an organic material is established to one membrane formation with the feature at said two or more evaporation containers.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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### [Detailed Description of the Invention]

#### [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the organic thin film formation equipment which fitted continuous production of the organic electroluminescence display device available as a large-sized flat display panel especially about organic thin film formation equipment.

#### [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The liquid-crystal-display element was mainly used for the conventional flat display panel. However, about the liquid crystal display, since it not being a spontaneous optical element and enlargement are difficult, development of the display panel of other form is hurried. On the other hand, an organic electroluminescence display device consists of thin film-ized technology of organic polymer material, and hybrid-ized technology of organicity and an inorganic material, is a display device based on a new principle, and is a spontaneous optical element. Widely [ an angle of visibility ], since structure is easy, it is expected as a display panel which will be low cost in the future, and can be enlarged.

[0003] The organic electroluminescence display device has complicated laminated structure from a viewpoint of control of brightness or a luminescent color in practice. An example of an organic electroluminescence display device is shown in drawing 4 expressed with section structure. The transparent conducting films 72, such as indium oxide, are formed on the glass substrate 71 as an anode, further, on the transparent conducting film 72, the electron hole transporting bed 73, a luminous layer 74, and the cathode electrode 75 are formed one by one, and the protective film 76 of the closure processing for raising a resistance to environment to the whole eventually is given. Organic materials, such as a KINORI Norian complex, are used for a thoria reel amine dielectric and a luminous layer 74 by the electron hole transporting bed

73. Moreover, the organic material (for example, green luminescence coumarin derivative) for raising luminous efficiency is used also for a luminous layer 74. Above-mentioned each class is formed as a thin layer about 500A thick, respectively. Production was conventionally performed by evaporating an organic material and a metallic substance in a vacuum in each class of the organic electroluminescence display device. Although production of a thin film has the viewpoint that it can produce continuously in recent years to cathode-sputtering technology in use in production of the organic thin film of an organic electroluminescence display device, on the characteristics of an organic material, highly, it decomposes and vapor pressure denatures easily. Since a very weak thing, there being much material which carries out sublimation evaporation with fine particles, and patterning by a deposition mask are required for the shock of charged particles, such as ion and an electron, based on the Reasons of the linearity of particles being required, sputtering technology cannot be used but vapor deposition technology is used. Thus, membrane formation of each class of the organic material of an organic electroluminescence display device is performed by vapor deposition equipment, and, generally the deposition boat evaporation source of the resistance heating method is used for this vapor deposition equipment as equipment for research now.

[0004] An example of the evaporator of a resistance heating method is shown in drawing 5. This vapor deposition equipment is for research. In the vacuum chamber 82 exhausted by the high vacuum with the vacuum pump which does not illustrate vapor deposition equipment through the exhaust port 81, the deposition boat 83 is arranged at the bottom, and the powdered vapor deposition material 84 is set in the deposition boat 83. The substrate holder 85 is arranged above a vacuum chamber 82, and the glass substrate 86 with which membrane formation is performed on the undersurface is being fixed. Between the glass substrate 86 and the deposition boat 83, the thicknessmeter 88 which carries out the monitor of the thickness of the shutter 87 which controls the thickness of the film formed, and a film is arranged. A field 89 is a membrane formation field. The deposition boat 83 with which it filled up with the vapor deposition material 84 is heated by about hundreds of degrees C, comes out outside from the pore which vapor deposition material evaporated for this reason, and was formed in the deposition boat 83, and goes up, it adheres on the undersurface (transparent conducting film) of the glass substrate 86, and membrane formation is performed. Only the number of the kinds of organic material film with which a deposition boat is laminated is prepared.

[0005] Moreover, the crucible called K cell (KUNUNSENSEERU) as an evaporation source generally used to molecular-beam-deposition equipment is used. An example of the structure of K cell is shown in drawing 6. The crucible 92 made from boron nitride is arranged inside the heating coil 91, and a proper quantity of evaporation materials 93 are held in the inside of a crucible 92. The thermal shield plate 94 of a three-tiered structure made from the tantalum for managing the temperature correctly etc. is formed in the outside of a crucible 92, and

thermocouple 95 is formed in the crucible 92 bottom. If current is sent through the heating coil 91, a crucible 92 will be heated and the evaporation material 93 will evaporate. The evaporation of an evaporation material is adjusted by adjusting the current sent through the heating coil 91, supervising the evaporation-rate meter which is not illustrated. K cell tends to carry out temperature control, when evaporation temperature is high temperature of 1000 degrees C or more.

[0006] Furthermore, JP,H10-195638,A can be mentioned as Prior-art literature about practical use equipment. The evaporation source for organic materials which enables exact control of the evaporation rate of the charge of add-in material to a chief material, and the organic thin film formation equipment constituted using this are indicated by this literature.

[0007]

[Problem to be solved by the invention] The organic thin film formation equipment for manufacturing an organic electroluminescence display device cannot use sputtering technology suitable for continuous production on the actual condition and its characteristics, but must apply evaporation technology. According to the evaporator of the above-mentioned resistance heating method, when the evaporation material of the deposition boat 83 is lost, it is necessary to return the inside of a vacuum chamber 82 to the atmosphere, and to be filled up with an evaporation material, and can use on a research level, but it is difficult to use as a practical production unit with which continuous production is demanded. That is, it is very difficult on structure to perform continuation supply of an evaporation material as an evaporator which can produce continuously.

[0008] The above-mentioned K cell is the crucible which accuracy can improve temperature management, and if the K cell concerned is used by the premise of reducing the turnover rate of an evaporation material in the evaporator of the above-mentioned resistance heating method, the possibility of continuous production will also be considered. However, in reducing the turnover rate of an evaporation material, since the loading weight of an evaporation material increases in K cell, the problem that the heat capacity of a crucible becomes large and temperature control becomes difficult occurs. If temperature control becomes difficult, membranous thickness cannot be controlled correctly, but it will have thermal influence on the organic electroluminescence display device further vapor-deposited on the glass substrate, and it will become difficult to manufacture the organic electroluminescence display device of desirable accuracy. Since the K cell itself is the evaporation source which can perform precisely exact temperature control, if the loading weight of an evaporation material can be set up appropriately and the evaporation material can be supplied continuously, continuous production will become possible also in an evaporator. However, since the means which can supply an evaporation material continuously is not developed at present, it cannot produce continuously.

[0009] [ the evaporation source for organic materials indicated by the above-mentioned patent disclosure gazette ] The structure of an evaporation source of holding the charge of add-in material and evaporating it is constituted from the 1st crucible which is a package body, and the 2nd crucible with a pore. The 2nd crucible is inserted in the 1st crucible filled up with the charge of add-in material, and by raising steam of the charge of add-in material through a pore, it constitutes so that evaporation of the charge of add-in material may be controlled. According to this, although the evaporation rate of the charge of add-in material to a chief material may be able to be controlled correctly, it is difficult to solve the problem of the continuous production pointed out above.

[0010] The purpose of this invention is to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, it is the production unit which can produce an organic electroluminescence display device continuously, and using the organic material which denatures easily thermally, it is stabilized, produces an organic thin film with sufficient reproducibility continuously, and there is in offering organic thin film formation equipment suitable for mass production.

[0011]

[Means for Solving the Problem and its Function] The organic thin film formation equipment concerning this invention is constituted as follows, in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose. The organic thin film formation equipment concerning this invention is equipment for forming an organic material evaporated film on a substrate based on a vapor deposition operation, when some organic electroluminescence display device production units are constituted and the film of an organic material is formed preferably. Organic thin film formation equipment is preparing two or more evaporation containers (crucible) individually filled up with each of several organic materials with which kinds differ as a premise, choose either of two or more evaporation containers, and within a vacuum chamber The organic material with which it filled up into it is evaporated with the heat of an evaporation source, it vapor-deposits to the substrate arranged up, and a film is formed, two or more films are laminated to a substrate using said various kinds of organic materials, and an organic electroluminescence display device is formed. An evaporation container and an evaporation source (heating unit) separate the organic thin film formation equipment by this invention as the feature, and it is formed, and an evaporation container can be freely detached and attached to an evaporation source. And it has the evaporation container conveyer which attaches and removes an evaporation container to an evaporation source, and it is constituted so that the evaporation container in the state where it filled up with the organic material of the specified quantity corresponding to the thickness of the film which is going to form membranes with an evaporation container conveyer before a membrane formation start may be attached to an evaporation source. According to the above-mentioned composition, in the stage before enabling attachment and detachment of a crucible to the main part of an evaporation source and performing membrane formation by

vapor deposition to the crucible concerned (the inside of the atmosphere, or under pressure reduction), weighing capacity and restoration of the organic material of an amount required for 1 time of stage film formation are carried out correctly, and it is prepared. In stage film formation, membrane formation by vapor deposition is performed setting the prepared crucible to the evaporation source of the membrane formation interior of a room one by one, and continuous production of an organic electroluminescence display device is attained by this. In the above-mentioned composition, the container hold room where further two or more evaporation containers have been arranged, and the membrane formation room where the evaporation source has been arranged are prepared, and a gate valve is prepared between a container hold room and a membrane formation room. It is isolated with a gate valve and the container hold room where two or more crucibles with which it was removed from the membrane formation room where membrane formation by vapor deposition is performed, and the evaporation source, and a little required organic materials were filled up are prepared is held uniquely respectively at a predetermined vacuum state. In the above-mentioned composition, further, the above-mentioned evaporation container conveyer is equipped with the gripper grasping an evaporation container, holds an evaporation container by this gripper, and is characterized by conveying an evaporation container between a container hold room and a membrane formation room through the opening in which the gate valve was prepared. The evaporation container conveyer has the function to convey that continuous production should be made possible for the crucible which was constituted as a transfer robot and constituted free [ attachment and detachment ] to the evaporation source. In the above-mentioned composition, it is constituted so that the organic material of an amount required for 1 time of stage film formation may be filled up into each of further two or more evaporation containers with a material supplying room. by being comparatively alike and making it a small quantity (grade of about 1g or less), heat capacity of the crucible which becomes possible [ miniaturizing a crucible ] and poses a problem in K cell which is the above-mentioned conventional technology can also be made small. Moreover, since supply and restoration of an organic material can carry out easily in the atmosphere into stage film formation, it becomes possible to produce continuously easily. Moreover, the organic thin film formation equipment concerning this invention is set in the 1st above-mentioned basic composition. Without preparing a container hold room specially, it can be considered only as a membrane formation room and an evaporation container, an evaporation source, and an evaporation container conveyer can be arranged in the same membrane formation room, and it can also constitute so that each of two or more evaporation containers may be filled up with the organic material of an amount required for 1 time of stage film formation. According to this composition, overall composition is simplified. Furthermore, in each above-mentioned composition, it is also desirable to constitute so that the material supplying mechanism which fills up two or more

evaporation containers with the organic material of an amount required for one membrane formation may be attached. In order to make continuous production possible, it is required to equip the material supplying equipment which an organic material is supplied automatically and can fill up a crucible.

[0012]

[Mode for carrying out the invention] Below, the suitable embodiment of this invention is explained based on an accompanying drawing.

[0013] Drawing 1 - drawing 3 show the typical embodiment of the organic thin film formation equipment concerning this invention. This organic thin film formation equipment is constituted as some organic electroluminescence display device production units. This organic thin film formation equipment is vapor deposition equipment which forms correctly the film of each vapor deposition layer of an organic material which has predetermined thickness with sufficient reproducibility, and is produced continuously in manufacture of the organic electroluminescence display device formed including the vapor deposition layer of the two-layer organic material shown, for example in drawing 4 , and the vapor deposition layer of a metallic substance. Drawing 1 shows the composition of the whole system of organic thin film formation equipment, and two or more signal lines (a dashed line shows) when each portion, the controller (controller), electric supply part (power supply) and controller which constitute membrane formation equipment, and each part of equipment are connected, the feeder (an alternate long and short dash line shows) which connects an electric supply part and an evaporation source, etc. are shown. The organic thin film formation equipment by this embodiment is equipped with the vacuum chamber 11 to which membrane formation is performed by vapor deposition operation of an organic material, and the container hold room (reserve room) 13 which two or more evaporation containers (or evaporation boat) 12 12, i.e., two or more crucibles, are prepared, and is arranged. A vacuum chamber 11 and the container hold room 13 adjoin, and are prepared, and a gate valve 14 is formed in between them. A gate valve 14 is usually closed and isolates a vacuum chamber 11 and the container hold room 13. Moreover, by opening a gate valve 14, the opening which leads both between a vacuum chamber 11 and the container hold room 13 is formed, and it becomes possible to move either of two or more crucibles 12. The transport mechanism 15 prepared in the inside of the container hold room 13 is used for migration of a crucible 12. The vacuum pump 16 and 17 are attached to each of a vacuum chamber 11 and the container hold room 13, these vacuum pumps operate independently, and each \*\* is independently exhausted with these vacuum pumps, and it is decompressed so that it may be in a respectively discrete vacuum state.

[0014] The number of the crucibles 12 arranged in the container hold room 13 is equivalent to the number of two or more layers depended on various kinds of organic materials usually included in the organic electroluminescence display device which is going to form membranes,

for example. Three crucibles 12 are shown by the example of illustration. Three crucibles 12 are arranged at the pivotable disc-like palette 18. Two or more holding holes (crucible \*\*\*\*) for holding a crucible 12 are formed in the palette 18, and the crucible 12 is set free [ receipts and payments in the holding hole ]. The characteristic number is assigned to each holding hole corresponding to the position. This characteristic number is used as management data for controllers which manages stage film formation, when performing membrane formation by vapor deposition about the material held in each crucible. The crucible 12 which carries out weighing capacity of the organic material precisely, and finished being filled up with it is set to a palette 18. In the stage before starting membrane formation, the organic material for forming organic material vapor deposition layers mentioned above, such as an electron hole transporting bed and a luminous layer, one by one is strictly filled up into each of two or more crucibles 12 with required and sufficient amount in 1 time of stage film formation. Therefore, since each crucible 12 is relatively filled up with a little (grade of about 1g or less) organic materials as compared with the case of the conventional crucible and what is necessary is to just be filled up with a small amount of vapor deposition material, crucible 12 the very thing also has a small form as compared with the conventional crucible. In addition, the crucible 12 is made from quartz.

[0015] Furthermore, as shown in drawing 1, the material supplying room 41 is established in the right-hand of the container hold room 13, and between the container hold room 13 and the material supplying room 41, the gate valve 19 which can be opened and closed freely is formed. The material supplying room 41 is equipped with the material automatic feed mechanism 42 equipped with the nozzle 42a for supplying material. When filled up with the organic material of an amount required for each of two or more crucibles 12 in the container hold room 13, a gate valve 19 is opened.

[0016] A vacuum chamber 11 is a portion into which membrane formation based on a vapor deposition operation is performed, the glass substrate 20 with which membrane formation is performed up is arranged, and two or more evaporation sources 21 are formed in the lower part. An organic material is vapor-deposited by the undersurface of the glass substrate 20. 22 is an electrode holder which fixes the glass substrate 20 in drawing 1 R> 1. An evaporation source 21 has the following focus, although the whole basic composition is similar to the conventional composition explained by drawing 6. The detailed structure of an evaporation source 21 is shown in drawing 3. An evaporation source 21 is equipped with the telescopic heating unit 23 using a heating coil, and the thermel shield part 24 which consists a heating unit 23 of thermel shield plate 24a-24c of wrap plurality. In this evaporation source 21, a crucible 12 dissociates, and is formed to the heating unit 23, a crucible 12 has the feature in the point established free [ attachment and detachment ] to a heating unit 23, and this point is a big point of difference with the composition of the conventional evaporation source.

Therefore, the heating unit 23 has a form like the container which can take a crucible 12 in and out of the upper opening 23a. Furthermore, the bearing member 25 which can move up and down freely is formed in the lower part of the heating unit 23. The crucible 12 into which it was put inside the heating unit 23 is supported by the bearing member 25 in that lower part, and further, this bearing member 25 is moved up and down, as the driving device 26 (shown in drawing 1 ) shows to Arrow A. By the motion moving of the bearing member 25, a crucible 12 is projected and can perform ejection of a crucible 12 easily. Although the crucible 12 of explanation set to the evaporation source 21 for convenience is shown to the state where the upper part came out by the example shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2 , in the case of membrane formation, the bearing member 25 descends further, it leaves the edge (portion of a collar) 12a of the upper part, and, as for a crucible 12, the whole bottom enters into a heating unit 23. And when taking out from an evaporation source 21, a crucible 12 is thrust up by the motion moving of the lower bearing member 25, and it is easy to hold a crucible 12 according to the transport mechanism 15. In addition, it is also possible to constitute so that all the crucibles 12 may be entirely put in into a heating unit 23. Operation for making the bearing member 25 of the driving device 26 drive is controlled by the controller 27 which consists of computers as shown in drawing 1 . By the control program for performing membrane formation processing in the memory part being built in a controller 27, and operating the bearing member 25 of an evaporation source 21 according to the control program concerned, and relating the transport mechanism 15 and making it operate, a crucible 12 is conveyed and attachment and removal are performed. Moreover, a controller 27 sets up and manages the process conditions (vapor deposition material, weighing capacity weight, preset temperature, etc.) of each organic material which evaporates according to the characteristic crucible number mentioned above the whole crucible.

[0017] In a vacuum chamber 11, five or more evaporation sources 21 are established, for example. The organic material of a different kind by establishing two or more evaporation sources can be evaporated simultaneously. When evaporating an organic material in each of two or more evaporation sources 21, electric power is supplied to a heating unit 23, and an evaporation source 21 is heated, but the conditions for heating of each evaporation source 21 (preset temperature) are independently controlled by a controller 27. Moreover, the shutter 28 is formed in each evaporation source up, and it becomes possible to raise up the material which evaporated when this opened. Illustration of the mechanism in which a shutter 28 is made to open and close in drawing 1 is omitted.

[0018] The membrane formation field 29 is formed in the space between the glass substrate 20 and the shutter 28 of an evaporation source 21 in a vacuum chamber 11. The electrode holder 22 for attaching the glass substrate 20 is formed so that it may rotate with the rotation equipment 30 which was formed in the Armai part of the vacuum chamber 11, and was formed

out of the vacuum chamber 11. Rotating the glass substrate 20 is to carry out vapor deposition to a substrate side uniformly. Operation of rotation equipment 30 is controlled by a controller 27. Moreover, although thicknessmeter was attached in the former corresponding to the membrane formation field 29 [ in the case of the vapor deposition equipment of the organic material by this embodiment ] A crucible 12 is filled up with a small amount of material to use it by vapor deposition membrane formation at each time, and since it is carrying out as [ determine / by managing the loading weight in a crucible 12 strictly and correctly / the film thickness of the vapor deposition layer of an organic material ], it is not necessary to carry out the monitor of the film thickness formed by attaching thicknessmeter. However, it is also still more possible like illustration to improve film thickness management of a vapor deposition layer by attaching thicknessmeter 31, realizing feedback control and combining with the characteristic composition of this invention. In this case, the information detected by thicknessmeter 31 is sent to a controller 27.

[0019] Moreover, thermocouple 32 is built in the above-mentioned bearing member 25. It is for thermocouple 32 measuring the temperature of a crucible 12, and the temperature information on the crucible 12 obtained by measurement is given to a controller 27. To the heating coil of a heating unit 23, from the electric supply part 33, current is supplied and the cooking temperature of a crucible 12 is determined according to the amount of current supplied. The cooking temperature of a crucible 12 determines the evaporation of the material 34 with which the crucible 12 was filled up. Then, a controller 27 controls the amount of current supplied from the electric supply part 33 based on the temperature information on the crucible 12 given from thermocouple 32, and sets up the optimal amount of current suitable for vapor deposition. The electric power supplied to the heating unit 23 of the evaporation source 21 set on the occasion of material evaporation of each crucible 12 is individually controlled by a controller 27 for every material, being managed by a characteristic crucible number.

[0020] [ the transport mechanism 15 established in the container hold room 13 ] The hand 35 which can be opened and closed and which grasps a crucible 12 as shown in drawing 2 , It is the transfer robot mechanism which consists of an arm 38 elastic like an arrow 37 which can rotate freely, a support 39 which moves up and down as shown in the arrow B of drawing 1 , and a hand 35, an arm 38 and the driving device 40 to which operation concerning a support 39 is made to perform like an arrow 36. A hand 35 is formed in the point part of an arm 38, and an arm 38 is fixed to the point part of a support 36. When a support 36 rotates, rotation of an arm 38 is attained. Operation of the driving device 40 is controlled according to the conveyance program included in the control program for the membrane formation prepared for the memory part of the controller 27. For example, when membrane formation is performed, either of two or more crucibles 12 set to the palette 18 of the container hold room 13 is chosen by operation of the transport mechanism 15. It is grasped by a hand 32, and after the gate

valve 14 has opened, as shown by the drawing 2 destructive line, it is carried to the inside of a vacuum chamber 11, and is set to an evaporation source 21. in this case, [ the crucible 12 attached to an evaporation source 21 at the container hold room 13 in the stage before membrane formation is started ] It fills up beforehand, and the material of a small quantity in comparison only of the part of the predetermined thickness of the organic material vapor deposition layer formed by one membrane formation according to the stage film formation performed after that makes, and is prepared.

[0021] Although the transport mechanism 15 was formed in the container hold room 13 with the above-mentioned composition, it is also possible to form the transport mechanism 15 in the inside of a vacuum chamber 11, i.e., the membrane formation interior of a room. In this case, it becomes the composition which goes a crucible 12 to the container hold room 13 for picking from the vacuum chamber 11 side. Moreover, in the above-mentioned composition, it is also possible to constitute so that two or more crucibles 12 of a preparatory step may be formed in a vacuum chamber 11 using a palette instead of forming the container hold room 13 separately from a vacuum chamber 11. It becomes unnecessary in this case, to open and close a gate valve 14 in the case of conveyance of a crucible.

[0022] Next, the composition which fills up with the material of an organic material each crucible 12 set to the palette 18 of the container hold room 13 is explained. Restoration of the material to each crucible 12 is performed in the stage before stage film formation is started, or the stage in stage film formation. When filled up with material, after the gate valve 14 has closed, a gate valve 19 is opened. Therefore, the vacuum state in a vacuum chamber 11 is held. If a gate valve 19 is opened, will be led by the container hold room 13 and the material supplying room 41. At this time, each crucible 12 \*\* is grasped, for example by the transport mechanism 15, and it carries to the nozzle 42a bottom of the material automatic feed mechanism 42, and supplies and fills up with a predetermined material chosen from Nozzle 42a to the crucible 12 according to the crucible. The material tank is formed in the inside of the material automatic feed mechanism 42 for every organic material, a required material is picked out from these material tanks, and each crucible 12 is supplied through Nozzle 42a. Operation of the material automatic feed mechanism 42 is controlled by a controller 27. after that, it is only a part required for the film thickness produced by 1 time of the stage film formation by the vapor deposition carried out by a vacuum chamber 11, and the loading weight of the material supplied to each crucible 12 from the material automatic feed mechanism 42 is boiled comparatively, and is little (grade of about 1g or less).

[0023] According to the above-mentioned composition, weighing capacity and restoration are made exact at each crucible 12 to which a small amount of material corresponds, for example in comparison at the material supplying room 41 of an atmospheric pressure state or a pressure reduction state. Completion of restoration of the material to each crucible 12 will

close a gate valve 19 after that. If a gate valve 19 is closed, the vacuum pump 17 will operate, the inside of the container hold room 13 will be decompressed, and it will change into a predetermined vacuum state, and will shift to the following stage film formation. In stage film formation, a gate valve 14 is opened, two or more crucibles 12 prepared for the palette 18 are conveyed and set to the evaporation source 21 in a vacuum chamber 11 by the transport mechanism 15, respectively, and membrane formation is started. [ according to the composition of the above material supplying ] in the stage before stage film formation is started. Correctly, can carry out weighing capacity of a little organic materials needed by stage film formation to two or more crucibles 12 carried in to the vacuum chamber 11 to which membrane formation based on a vapor deposition operation is performed, and in stage film formation Since the crucible which holds the material needed for membrane formation with the vacuum state of a membrane formation room maintained can be exchanged one by one and an organic material can be supplied continuously, it can produce continuously by production of the organic electroluminescence display device by vapor deposition.

[0024] Moreover, since the container of the size which can be filled up with an amount required for one vapor deposition membrane formation is sufficient as a crucible 12, a bore can form it in the small size about 10mm and whose height are about 30mm. For this reason, the heat capacity of a crucible becomes small, moreover, the structure of an evaporation source 21, and since the miniaturization of a heating unit 23 is also mainly possible, overall thermal radiation becomes small and the damage of a substrate is reduced. Moreover, since the above-mentioned feedback control can function effectively, it has the advantage that temperature control nature improves. Furthermore, since it enabled it to manage correctly by a relation with the thickness of the vapor deposition layer by which the amount of the material needed by membrane formation by vapor deposition is formed, control of an organic material which is easy to carry out reforming thermally can be enabled, and an organic material can be managed effectively.

[0025] The embodiment mentioned above can be changed as follows. For example, although only the crucible was conveyed in the above-mentioned, it can also constitute so that a heating unit may be made to unite with a crucible and it may convey. In this case, since the temperature conditions of a crucible are always held uniformly, struggling between crucibles can be decreased.

[0026]

[Effect of the Invention] In the equipment which produces an organic electroluminescence display device by membrane formation by evaporation by the above explanation according to this invention so that clearly Separate and constitute the heating unit and evaporation container of an evaporation source, and it has composition which can detach and attach a crucible freely to the main part of an evaporation source. In order to fill up only a small quantity

required for each crucible with the organic material needed in 1 time of stage film formation and to prepare it before performing stage film formation, it became possible to perform continuous production. as opposed to an evaporation source -- inside \*\* which can be detached and attached -- in order to establish a small crucible, the transport mechanism which conveys this crucible, and the automatic material supplying mechanism which fills up automatically in the atmosphere or with the bottom of pressure reduction the material of the optimal amount by which weighing capacity was correctly carried out to the crucible The organic thin film formation equipment which can perform practical continuous production is realizable. Since what is necessary is to just be filled up with the continuous organic material which is sufficient for 1 time of stage film formation again at each crucible, a small crucible can be used, the heat capacity of a crucible becomes small, and the temperature control nature of the organic material with which the crucible was filled up improves.

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[Translation done.]